

VZCZCXRO3408  
OO RUEHAP RUEHNZ  
DE RUEHWL #0342 1240032  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 040032Z MAY 06  
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2750  
INFO RUEHAP/AMEMBASSY APIA PRIORITY 0211  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 4390  
RUEHSV/AMEMBASSY SUVA PRIORITY 0458  
RUEHNZ/AMCONSUL AUCKLAND PRIORITY 0736  
RHHJJAA/JICPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 000342

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/FO, EAP/ANP AND DS/IP/EAP  
PACOM FOR JO1E/J2/J233/J5/SJFHQ

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [SENV](#) [TN](#) [NZ](#)

SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND REPORTS LITTLE TO NO EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE  
IN TONGA

[1](#)1. New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) reports there have been no casualties and little to no property damage in the capital of Nuku'alofa and the outer islands. MFAT says the Tongan National Emergency-Disaster Office reports no casualties and little to no property damage in Ha'apai, the island nearest to the epicenter. There have been no reports of structural damage.

[1](#)2. The NZ High Commissioner to Tonga, Michael McBride, reported broken plates at his residence sustained from the prolonged, 30-second quake and an initial overloading of the phone system in Nuku'alofa. However, McBride said the social situation had returned to normal, with locals playing touch rugby in the street. Initial situation reports from New Zealand's missions to Apia, Cook Islands and Niue were similar, reporting no casualties and little to no property damage. As the earthquake has apparently had little impact, GNZ plans no special assistance to the region at this time.  
McCormick